

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047599
ORIGIN AF-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047599

FOR CAHILL AND HUFFMAN FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BENC, ECRE, LGEN, NI

SUBJECT: CE-TEC

1. ON MARCH 2 IN BOSTON I DISCUSSED WITH SLOCUM AND PELKEY THE IMPLICATIONS OF LEHMANN'S DETENTION FOR CE-TEC'S INTEREST IN PORT IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT. CE-TEC HAD EXPECTED RECEIVE REQUEST BY PORT AUTHORITY (TUKOR AND FOWORA, ASSISTANT GENERALMANAGER FOR ENGINEERING), AROUND MARCH 15 FOR FOTI AND PELKEY RETURN TO LAGOS LATE MARCH TO SIGN CONTRACT. NOW CE-TEC FEELS THAT TUKOR WILL HESITATE MOVE AHEAD ON PROJECT WITH CE-TEC IN VIEW LEHMANN'S ROLE AS GO-BETWEEN. SLOCUM IN ANY CASE UNWILLING SEND FOTI AND PELKEY BACK UNTIL HE IS SURE THE WAY IS CLEAR.

2. MRS. RETTER OF LEHMANN'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK TELLS ME THEY HAVE LEARNED FROM AMBASSADOR WOLLTER VIA STOCKHOLM THAT CHARGE AGAINST LEHMANN APPEARS BASED ON BELIEF HE WAS INVOLVED IN SALE TO NIGERIAN MILITARY OF SPARE PARTS
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THAT ORIGINATED IN ISRAEL AND TRANSITTED SOUTH AFRICA ENROUTE TO NIGERIA. MRS. RETTER SAYS LEHMANN WAS INDEED TRYING TO SELL SPARE PARTS TO NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES BUT ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN COMPANIES SHIPPING DIRECT TO NIGERIA.

3. MRS. RETTER BELIEVES LEHMANN'S LOCAL PARTNER ADEJORO

MAY BE SOURCE OF TRUMPED-UP CHARGE AGAINST LEHMANN. SHE
SAYS LEHMANN HIRED ADEJORO TWO YEARS AGO TO HANDLE
MILITARY DEALS FOR HIM IN LAGOS BUT ADEJORO NOW TRYING
EDGE LEHMANN OUT.

4. SLOCUM WILL HOLD BACK HIS BOYS UNTIL LEHMANN MATTER
IS CLARIFIED. HE WILL IN ANY CASE SEEK EMBASSY'S VIEWS
PRIOR TO SENDING THEM TO LAGOS. MEANWHILE, HE WILL
APPRECIATE ANY ADVICE EMBASSY MAY WISH PROVIDE.

VANCE

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